

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCA-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
USIE-00 INRE-00 /080 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TIMBS:DPSULLIVAN:CCH  
APPROVED BY EA/TIMBS:REFRITTS  
D/HA - MR. HILL  
D/HA - MR. SIEVERTS  
EUR/NE - MR. SHUMATE

-----102087 272148Z /73

O P 272122Z JUL 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, ID

SUBJECT: ISJ REPORT OF CHARGES OF 15,000 DEATHS AMONG  
INDONESIAN PRISONERS

1. INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS (ICJ) SEMI-  
ANNUAL REVIEW, RELEASED IN GENEVA JULY 25, CONTAINS AN  
ARTICLE ON PRISON CONDITIONS IN INDONESIA BASED ON A  
LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE  
RED CROSS (ICRC) REPORTEDLY WRITTEN BY A POLITICAL  
PRISONER AND SMUGGLED OUT OF JAIL. REVIEW ARTICLE  
STATES LETTER WAS DATED JANUARY 1, 1977, AND WAS NOT  
RPT NOT OBTAINED BY ICJ FROM ICRC. ARTICLE STATES  
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ICJ IS CONVINCED OF GENUINENESS OF LETTER AND "GENERAL  
RELIABILITY" OF CONTENTS.

2. ARTICLE QUOTES LETTER AS CHARGING THAT 15,000  
PRISONERS HAVE DIED FROM MALNUTRITION, IN NORTH SUMATRA  
AND SURABAYA JAILS (TIME PERIOD NOT SPECIFIED), THAT  
90 PERCENT OF PRISONERS IN INDONESIA HAVE BEEN TORTURED

OR MALTREATED, THAT MANY PRISONERS WERE TRANSFERRED FROM  
SALEMBA AND OTHER PRISONS PRIOR TO ICRC INSPECTION  
(PRESUMABLY IN 1976) BECAUSE IT WAS FEARED THEY WOULD  
REVEAL CONDITIONS, AND THAT FIGURES GIVEN OF PAST  
PRISONER RELEASES ARE FALSE. FULL TEXT FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.

3. WILLIAM BUTLER, NEW YORK-BASED CHAIRMAN OF ICJ  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES, HAS INFORMED DEPT THAT ARTICLE DOES  
NOT ACCORD WITH HIS IMPRESSIONS OF CONDITIONS IN INDO-  
NESIA BUT ASSUMES THAT ICJ EXPERT FOLLOWING INDONESIA  
MUST HAVE APPROVED ARTICLE PRIOR TO PUBLICATION. BUTLER  
CHECKING INTO CIRCUMSTANCES OF PUBLICATION AND BACKGROUND  
OF ARTICLE.

4. BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICER, VISITING EA/TIMBS AT TIME  
OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH BUTLER, ASKS THAT EMBASSY  
PASS COPY OF TEXT TO BRITISH EMBASSY JAKARTA.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: FOR JAKARTA: REQUEST EMBASSY'S  
EVALUATION OF CHARGES IN REVIEW ARTICLE.

6. FOR GENEVA: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION YOU  
CAN DEVELOP ON HOW ICJ REACHED JUDGMENT ON "GENERAL  
RELIABILITY" OF CONTENTS OF REPORTED LETTER. VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, PRISON CONDITIONS, DEATHS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 27-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE176055  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** DPSULLIVAN:CCH  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ORIGIN EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1730986  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ISJ REPORT OF CHARGES OF 15,000 DEATHS AMONG INDONESIAN PRISONERS  
**TAGS:** SHUM, PORS, ID, IJC  
**To:** JAKARTA GENEVA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/2402f762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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